

IROKO

Theatre Company

IYE AJA (Umbilical Cord) Project



A Naming Ceremony Ritual

Source: www.folklife.si.edu

In most Sub-Saharan African communities, when a child is born, a Naming Ceremony usually follows. This can take place severally e.g. 7, 14 or 21 days after the child's birth. The selecting of a child's name is a very significant part of the whole process. Most Sub-Saharan African names are given for reasons and some of the reasons might be connected to parents' dreams and wishes, circumstances surrounding the birth of the child, history of the marriage or pregnancy, family history or even actual historical events or happenings within the immediate community, etc.

The naming Ceremony rituals vary from community to communities but amongst the Mid-Western & Eastern part of Nigerian, there are some common items that must be present in carrying out the naming ceremony ritual e.g. Colanut, Water, Honey, Alligator Pepper, Salt, etc.

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